

Senate Bill 75
January 10, 2013
Presented by Hank Worsech
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairperson and committee members, I am Hank Worsech, License Bureau Chief of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP). I am here in support of Senate Bill 75.

SB 75 goes along way to recognize our combat disabled men and women on the road to recovery, by allowing donated licenses to be issued to nonprofit organizations that use enjoyment of our great outdoors through hunting and fishing to help them heal. The Department supports this bill and after talking to Senator Priest and some of the constituents, we have suggested a few amendments that would clarify and ease implementation of the bill:

- The addition of "service member" in the text everywhere veteran or disabled veteran appears. This will allow active duty personnel in medical recovery as well as disabled veterans to participate.
- Require the nonprofit organization be a 501(c)(3). This will provide a standard for nonprofit organizations.
- Specify that the person donating the license cannot designate to which organization, injured service member, or disabled veteran the surrendered license will be reissued. This will ensure that the licenses are distributed fairly.
- Specify that the surrender of the license and any related permit must be done before the start of any season for which the license is valid. This will ensure the donor did not use the license before it was donated.
- Require a service member or veteran is a recipient of a Purple Heart. This will clarify injuries were received in combat as required by the bill.

This is a noble gesture by the sponsor and Department requests a "do pass" with amendments as suggested.

Thank you.